

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8-10, 12, 14-17, 19, 21-24, 26, and 28-30 are pending, with Claims 1, 8, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24 and 30 amended and Claims 2, 11, 18 and 25 cancelled by the present amendment.

In the Official Action, Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-12, 14-19, 21-26, and 28-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-12, 14-19, 21-26, and 20-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8, 10-12, 14-19, 21-26 and 28-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0036377 (Togashi) in view of article entitled “Application of Engineering Plastic Materials to Office Automation and Audio-Visual Appliances in Japan” (hereinafter Yasufuku); Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Togashi and Yasufuku in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,688,590 (Billings et al., hereinafter Billings); and Claims 1, 3, 8, 10, 12, 16, 17, 19, 23, 24, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Togashi in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. 2002-68511 (hereinafter Ito).

Claims 1, 10, 17, 23, and 24 are amended to remove the language that is cited in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. The claims are amended to be similar to those pending as of Applicant’s Amendment filed July 21, 2005 and subject to the rejections filed in the Official Action of October 11, 2005. Applicants’ claims are further amended to delete reference to polybutylene terephthalate (PBT). No new matter is added.

As acknowledged in the Official Action, Togashi fails to disclose or suggest the use of polybutylene terephthalate (PBT), polyethylene (PE), poly-ether-ether-ketone (PEEK), and polyimide (PI). The Official Action refers to Yasufuku for a teaching of PBT, and asserting

that the discussion in Yasufuku of PBT having a property (surface hardness) relevant to Applicants' claimed invention provided a proper motivation to combine Togashi with Yasufuku. In view of Applicants' deletion of PBT from the pending claims, such arguments are moot. However, regarding PE, PEEK or PI, Applicants submit that Yasufuku does not cure the deficiencies of Togashi. That is, while Yasufuku discloses that PBT has a superior surface hardness property, Yasufuku does not disclose or suggest surface hardness features of PE, PEEK or PI. Figure 1 of Yasufuku discloses the heat distortion temperature of various polymers, including PEEK. Figure 2 of Yasufuku discloses the tensile strength of various polymers, including PEEK. Tables I and II (part 2, page 9 and page 11) of Yasufuku lists various properties of PEEK, but none of these properties equal surface hardness. Page 10 of Yasufuku discusses PEEK, and notes that applications of PEEK are confined to common parts (e.g., bobbins and sockets), citing to another reference (Nakanishi and Todo) for predictions of wider use. Page 11 of Yasufuku discusses PI, and notes that PI is very difficult to mold, thereby discouraging one skilled in the art to consider using PI in the manner recited. This discussion of PI points to additional references for a discussion of the use of PI in Japanese manufacturing.

Applicants submit that one skilled in the art would recognize that abrasion resistance is different from mechanical strength and surface hardness. Thus, Yasufuku makes no reference to surface abrasion of PE, PEEK or PI, Applicants submit that one skilled in the art would not find motivation in Togashi or Yasufuku to combine these references to arrive at Applicants' claimed tilt face and/or contact face made of PE, PEEK or PI. The fact that one polymer is superior in terms of tensile strength does not mean that the same polymer is superior in terms of abrasion resistance. For example, Table 1 on page 8 of Yasufuku indicates that PC is superior to PBT in terms of tensile strength and flex strength, while PBT is superior to PC in terms of abrasion resistance. Without a discussion of the abrasion

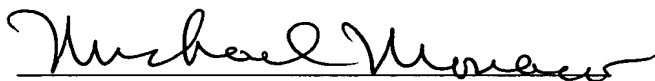
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resistance PE, PEEK or PI, Applicants submit there is no motivation to combine Togashi or Yasufuku to arrive at Applicants' claimed invention.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment and in light of the previous discussion, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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